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WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON
MAY 18, 2006

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session at the Hal Holmes Community Center on May 18, 2006 in Ellensburg, Washington. Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members

Lynn Brown, Chair
Bill Boyum, DNR, Vice Chair
Jim Peters, Member
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Bob Barker, Member
Tracy Eriksen, Member
Fred Colvin, Member, WACD
Lee Faulconer, Member, AG
Melodie Selby, Member, ECY
Ed Adams, Member, WSU

Commission Staff

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant
Butch Ogden, Regional Manager
Tom Salzer, Regional Manager
Kristy McGuill, Grants Specialist
Carol Smith, Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator
Debbie Becker, Administrative/Financial Manager

Partnerships & Guests

Gus Hughbanks, NRCS
John Larson, WACD Executive Director
Don Larsen, WDFW
Rod Hamilton, FSA
Nora Mena, Dept of Ag
Kathy Whalen, Thurston CD

Kim Simpson, WADE
Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD
Megan Stewart, Asotin CD
David Lundgren, Lincoln CD
Sharonne O'Shea, AG

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Boyum moved to approve the March 16, 2006 Regular Minutes and the NASCA 2006 Annual Meeting Travel. Commissioner Selby seconded.

Motion passed.

WSCC 2007-13 STRATEGIC PLAN

A Special Meeting will be called on May 26, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. to approve the 2007-13 Strategic Plan.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Commissioner Barker moved to approve the following CREP Technical Assistance (July 1, 2006 thru June 30, 2007) to:

Asotin CD	\$70,000
Benton CD	\$5,000

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1	Clark CD	\$10,000
2	Columbia CD	\$50,000
3	Jefferson/Clallam CDs	\$63,000
4	King/Pierce CDs	\$10,000
5	Kitsap CD	\$8,000
6	Lewis/Gray Harbor/Thurston CDs	\$100,000
7	Mason CD	\$20,000
8	Okanogan CD	\$15,000
9	Pacific CD	\$15,000
10	Pomeroy CD	\$20,000
11	Skagit CD	\$110,000
12	Snohomish CD	\$38,000
13	S Yakima CD	\$1,500
14	Wahkiakum/ Cowlitz CDs	\$20,000
15	Walla Walla CD	\$83,000
16	Whatcom CD	\$240,000
17	Whitman CD	\$5,000
18	Underwood CD	\$950

19 **Commissioner Faulconer seconded.**

20 **Motion passed.**

21 The Commission asked the WACD CREP Committee to query the districts and take a look at any issues
22 in order to develop a marketing strategy in promoting the program.

24 **LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING DISTRIBUTION**

25 **Commissioner Bahrych moved to approve the following staff**
26 **recommendation for the Livestock Technical Assistance:**

- 27 **1. Continue the current funding of updates and referrals until a review**
28 **of the workload which will be presented at the July 2006**
29 **Commission Meeting,**
- 30 **2. District Board approval for any updates and new plans. A signature**
31 **page will be provided with the voucher.**
- 32 **3. A signature page for current vouchered funds will be completed for**
33 **the remaining plans. This will verify that plans were completed.**
- 34 **4. Ask districts to re-evaluate remaining funds and number of plans to**
35 **do and return which will allow more available funds for use by other**
36 **districts.**

37 **Commissioner Faulconer seconded.**

38 **Motion passed.**

39 An informational memo will be written to the conservation districts regarding the changes and/or
40 additions. This is another area of measurement that can be used in preparing budget package if necessary.
41 Commission staff will identify the next steps and prepare a proposal for the July Commission Meeting.

WATER QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM

Commissioner Boyum moved to approve a pilot project increasing cost share percentage maximum on upland practices in order to give more latitude in upland practices. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Selby moved to accept the Grants Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation to allow districts to apply the 25% required match to the entire cost share agreement (instead of 25% of each practice on the agreement). Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Faulconer moved to accept the Grants Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation to require grant programmatic activity reports better reflect what districts do by including reportable data and adding a succinct narrative. Commissioner Colvin seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Barker moved to accept the Grants Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation to streamline the cost-share partial payment request form and procedures. Commissioner Selby seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Faulconer moved, to accept the Grants Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation to require ready-to-use scopes of work from conservation districts. Commissioner Boyum seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Adams moved, to accept the Grants Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation that districts provide a verification of project completion. Commissioner Boyum seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Adams moved to pursue a means of funding the water quality account beyond the current sources. Commissioner Peters seconded.

Motion passed.

The Commission requested that staff explore the other recommendations from the Grants Policy Advisory Committee:

- Minimum match requirement.
- Grant contracts with life cycles longer than June 30th of the biennial year.
- Reward/penalty system for district vouchers and reporting dates.
- Examine existing policy to see if there is an option allowed to try experimental demonstration practices and projects beyond what has been done examining the impact on water quality and if viable add to the grant application form.

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- A grant distribution system to retain current individual level funding for districts who may be considering merging/consolidation with another district so that their funding that was received as a separate district will not be lost.

At the WACD Officer's and Director's Meeting on May 15, 2006 a discussion was held regarding a workgroup for the water quality issues. The Grants Policy Advisory Committee will be available for help.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

Commission Colvin moved to allow all conservation districts to apply for capacity building grants in this cycle. Commissioner Selby seconded.

Motion passed.

SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS

Ferry Conservation District

Commissioner Eriksen moved to appoint Patricia Hamod as Supervisor to the Ferry Conservation District. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Franklin Conservation District

Commissioner Eriksen moved to appoint Scott Kawauchi as Supervisor to the Franklin Conservation District. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Pend Oreille Conservation District

Commissioner Eriksen moved to appoint Randall Leestma as Supervisor to the Pend Oreille Conservation District. Commissioner Colvin seconded.

Motion passed.

Lewis County Conservation District

Commissioner Barker moved to appoint David Fenn as Supervisor to the Lewis County Conservation District. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Motion passed.

Pomeroy Conservation District

Commissioner Eriksen moved to appoint Richard Hastings as Supervisor to the Pomeroy Conservation district. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

ELECTIONS

Commissioner Barker moved to announce the official results of the following Supervisor elections:

**Danny T. Downs, Benton
Howard Jaeger, Cowlitz
Derek Stevens, Grant**

**Chris Pederson, Pacific
Diane Wear, Pend Oreille
Rose Ehart, Pierce**

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Ted E. Baker, Jr., Grays Harbor
Roberta Lindemulder, King
Leslie Banigan, Kitsap
Gary Schuyten, Mason
Jennifer Jefferson, N Yakima

Peter F. Walmsley, San Juan Co.
Michael N. Naylor, Skagit
Chris Mahelona, Spokane Co.
Don Gensler, Underwood
Anthoni Aegerter, Wahkiakum

Commissioner Peters seconded.

Motion passed.

WATERSHED DATA PILOT PROJECT

A letter was received from one of the vendors. A response letter will be written. The committee will document the criteria and process that was used in choosing the qualified vendor for future reference.

LEGAL BUSINESS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Brown called an Executive Session for discussion of the Mason Conservation District Legal request. The session began 2:00 p.m. and ended at 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order.

Mason Conservation District Legal Request

Commissioner Colvin moved to provide a grant up to \$2,000 to the Mason Conservation District to assist with legal expenses. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Bahrych moved to amend the motion to include direction to the Commission's Assistant Attorney General to discuss Mason County legislative options. Commissioner Peters seconded.

Amendment passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nora Mena, Department of Agriculture

Ms. Mena requested formal time at the July 2006 Commission Meeting to discuss livestock issues. The Commission agreed to add to the July agenda.

COST SHARE POLICY REQUESTS

The Commission supports the Executive Director Mark Clark, in finding ways to clarify the cost share policy.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WACD) COMMITTEES

Additional Funding Request for WACD Livestock Committee Co-Chair – Skagit CD

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Commissioner Boyum moved to deny the request from the Skagit Conservation District for an additional \$10,000 from the livestock technical assistance fund. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Motion passed.

Additional Funding Support for WACD Committee Meetings

Commissioner Barker moved for staff to work with WACD to develop a proposal that addresses the Skagit Conservation District request but also includes all WACD committee activities. ~~Staff to discuss with Skagit CD whether a small amount of funding not to exceed \$500 would allow the employee to continue to participate between now and the Commission's regular meeting in July, and if so, provide it.~~ Commissioner Boyum seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Selby moved to amend by striking the second sentence. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Amendment passed.

Current Livestock Grant Technical Assistance Funding Allowing Charge of Staff Hours

Commissioner Adams moved to allow an amendment to the livestock grant contracts to allow district staff to charge WACD committee staff hours to the grant. Commissioner Faulconer seconded.

Motion passed.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER - MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Commissioner Colvin moved to proceed with the first phase of the Mason Conservation District Anaerobic Digester Project contingent on an independent review. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

A work session will be held prior to the Clark Conservation District Tour on July 19, 2006.

July 19, 2006

Planning Work Session

Red Lion Hotel at the Quay
100 Columbia Street
Vancouver, WA 98660

Field Tour coordinated by the Clark CD and no host Interaction Dinner.

July 20, 2006

Regular Commission Meeting

Red Lion Hotel at the Quay
100 Columbia Street
Vancouver, WA 98660

ADJOURNMENT

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- 1 Commissioner Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.